

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 7205

BILL NUMBER: HB 1582

NOTE PREPARED: Jan 12, 2009

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: School Counselors.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Porter

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FUNDS AFFECTED: X GENERAL
DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: *School Intervention and Career Counseling Development Program:* This bill expands School Intervention and Career Counseling Development Programs for which grants may be awarded from kindergarten through grade 6 to kindergarten through grade 12. It increases maximum allowable grant amounts awarded from the School Intervention or Career Counseling Development Fund.

School Elementary Counselors, School Social Workers, and Schools Psychologists Program: The bill specifies target counselor - student ratios to be used for the hiring of school counselors, social workers, and psychologists with grant money. It also makes a technical correction.

Effective Date: July 1, 2009.

Explanation of State Expenditures: *School Intervention and Career Counseling Development Program* The bill modifies the School Intervention and Career Counseling Development Program to provide funding for school k-12 counselors of \$25,000 per counselor with a limit of the school grant based on the size of the school corporation. (The programs currently provides a grant of \$15,000 for each k-6 counselor subject to corporation maximums). The new maximum grants are \$85,000 if the school has less than 5,000 students (current level is \$75,000), \$130,000 if the school has less than 10,000 students (current level is \$120,000), and \$190,000 if school has more than 10,000 students (current level is \$180,000). The impact would be to increase the potential grants by about \$9.6 M, from \$22.7 M to \$32.3 M. The Department receives about \$104,000 annually from the education license plate and had spent \$90,000 in the first six months of FY 2009 on grants. The balance in the fund is about \$323,779.

School Elementary Counselors, School Social Workers, and Schools Psychologists Program: The bill

specifies the staffing ratios goals for the School Elementary Counselors, School Social Workers, and Schools Psychologists Program. The bill would establish a standard of 250 students for each school counselor, 400 students for each social worker, and 1,000 students for each school psychologist. Based on the number of employees reported on the Department of Education's certified staff report about 2,317 additional counselors, 2,237 additional social workers, and 656 additional psychologists would be need by local schools. The estimated costs of the additional staff would be about \$214.6 M if all school were to meet these goals. The program is to be funded by grants from the Elementary School Counselors, Social Workers, and School Psychologists Fund. The current program was not funded during the 2008-2009 biennium.

This bill does not contain any appropriations for these funds.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: *See Explanation of State Expenditures:*

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Department of Education.

Local Agencies Affected: Local Schools.

Information Sources: Department of Education databases.

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